



Reservoir High School
Chamber Choir
(Madrigal Singers)
Syllabus and Grading Policy
Dr. Knauf



OBJECTIVES

The goals of this course are to develop healthy vocal technique; increase knowledge of musical terminology, style, theory, and history; and to strengthen the musical reading and listening skills of each individual singer. These goals will be met through ensemble and solo discovery of a variety of musical genres, periods, languages, and cultures in rehearsals and performances as well as through class ear training. In addition to the development of musical abilities, it is hoped that through active participation in the class and music program in general, students will develop positive attitudes toward themselves and others and a strong spirit of cooperation.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Pencil
- Assigned music and folder
- Notebook or section of a notebook for notes/journaling

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

- **RESPECT** should be shown to each and every singer in the ensemble, to student leaders, and to the director; we work as a team towards the goal of creating excellent music! Support and encourage each other in every way possible.
- Be seated in your assigned seat with music and pencil ready by the sound of the bell.
- Stay on task: Be prepared with your music open to the correct page during rehearsal, even if your section is not singing.
- Listen to directions, even if your section is not singing.
- Maintain proper posture when singing. Feel free to slouch at any other time!
- Only students in lunch choir should bring food or drink into the choral room. Water bottles are allowed.
- No gum. Please discard gum before you enter the choir room.
- The RHS electronics and dress code policies will be enforced.
- If you are suffering from a temporary sore throat or loss of voice, you are still expected to participate in all non-vocal activities during rehearsal. This includes physical, non-vocal warm-ups and following and marking the music. Sleeping, reading, or doing other homework will not be allowed. If you are too sick to participate, you will be sent to the nurse and be given an excused absence, for which you must make up any missed work.
- Music is the property of the school; keep it in the best possible condition. Students are responsible for the cost of replacing any lost or damaged music.

ATTENDANCE

- Attendance is required at every rehearsal of the ensemble, whether during the regular class period or during afternoon/evening rehearsals. If you know you will be absent for a specific rehearsal for a legitimate reason, please notify Dr. Knauf **in writing** as far in advance as possible, no later than one week before the absence. You are responsible for learning any material covered and making up any work assigned.
- If you have more than two unexcused absences from after school rehearsals leading up to a concert, you may not be able to perform in that concert, severely affecting your quarterly grade, and you may be removed from participating in the Spring Trip.
- Attendance at rehearsals during concert weeks is *mandatory*. If you miss a rehearsal during a concert week, except in emergency or religious situations, or RHS athletic conflicts according to the sports policy, you will not be permitted to sing in the concert; *you will still be expected to attend the concert*, but will not be allowed to perform, thus lowering your performance grade.
- Attendance at all performances is mandatory. If you know you will be absent from a concert for an approved reason, including RHS athletic conflicts according to the sports policy, Dr. Knauf must receive a written note

from your parents at least one week in advance. Failure to do so will result in a lowering of your performance grade. **Unexcused absence from a performance will severely affect your quarterly grade.**

CONSEQUENCES FOR STUDENT MISBEHAVIOR INCLUDING LATENESS TO CLASS

Students must be in their assigned seats with a pencil in hand and their music out *by the sound of the late bell*. Rehearsal points will be deducted for any unexcused lateness.

It is also the expectation that each student in the ensemble participates and contributes in a positive manner. A student who creates disruptions, behaves in a negative or non-courteous manner to any fellow student or the director, or fails to follow the class expectations, including lateness to class, will earn the following consequences:

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| First violation: | Student/staff member conference |
| Second violation: | Parent contact – SIR |
| Third violation: | Parent contact (oral or written) and before/after school detention - SIR |
| Fourth & subsequent violations: | Referral to administrator |

GRADING POLICY

I. Performances/Dress Rehearsals 45%

Up to 100 points will be earned for each concert in which you perform, and up to 50 points will be earned for each dress rehearsal and concerts in which you don't perform. Points will be deducted for tardiness to concerts and rehearsals, for leaving a concert early, or for improper concert etiquette.

Attendance for the entire duration of all concerts is MANDATORY. Students are expected to attend all RHS Music Department concerts, even if your ensemble is not performing.

II. Rehearsal Skills/Participation 35%

Students will earn up to 10 points for rehearsals, based upon the following rubric:

| Points earned | Rehearsal Skills |
|---------------|---|
| 9-10 | Student is on time. Excellent participation. Excellent preparation: has music and pencil.† |
| 7-8 | Unexcused tardy with excellent participation OR Good participation overall Fair preparation: no pencil Chewing gum, or eating food (except for lunch choir) |
| 5-6 | Poor preparation: no music Fair participation |
| 1-4 | Student is unprepared: no music or pencil Poor participation |
| 0 | Lack of participation/removal of student from rehearsal Student is absent (excused absence can be made up, unexcused absence cannot be made up) |

†Preparation also includes meeting “TURN IN” deadlines, and participation also includes non-musical choir responsibilities.

III. Assignments, Quizzes, Tests 20%

Points will be earned for any work assigned, including, but not limited to:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| • Smart Music Assessments | • Pencil checks | • Journal entries |
| • Concert reviews | • Score marking | • Part checks |
| • Music theory | • Part study at home | • Sight reading |
| • Constructed responses | • Rhythm tests | |

Unless otherwise directed by Dr. Knauf, students should complete work individually. Refer to the Academic Honor Code for more information regarding cheating and plagiarism.

Grading Scale

90 – 100 % = A, 80 – 89 % = B, 70 – 79 % = C 60 – 69 % = D 0 – 59 % = E

The highest grades will be earned by hard-working and committed students; i.e., those who demonstrate leadership and personal integrity through behavior, posture, effort, and a positive attitude. Because this is a performance-based class, it is expected that students will devote time outside of school for rehearsals, practice, and performances. The director always maintains the right to remove any student from a performance if the student's skills limit the effectiveness of that performance.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Website: www.rhsmusic.wikispaces.com

E-mail: gknauf@hcpss.org

Music Department phone: 410-888-8864

IMPORTANT DATES (see the full calendar for a complete list of rehearsals, events, etc.)

| | |
|---|---|
| October 24 th | Fall Concert Dress Rehearsal – 6:30-9pm |
| October 26 th | Fall Concert - 7pm |
| November 12 th | Junior All State Auditions |
| November 19 th | Senior All State Auditions |
| December 7 th | Concert Choir Dress Rehearsal – 6-9pm |
| December 9 th | Winter Concert I (CB, PE, CC, O) – 7pm |
| December 13 th | Men's & Women's Choirs & Madrigals Dress Rehearsal – 2:30-5:30pm |
| December 14 th | Winter Concert II (SB, JB, MC, WC, Mads) – 7pm |
| January 27 th | Pop's Concert – 6-10pm |
| February 13 th | Chamber Choir Masterclass @ WLHS |
| February 23 rd -25 th | All State Senior Choruses @ Morgan State University |
| March 9 th -11 th | All State Junior Chorus |
| March 12 th | Concert Choir Dress Rehearsal—6-9pm |
| March 13 th or 14 th | Concert Choir/Chamber Choir Assessment @ Howard HS – 2:30-9pm, exact date TBA |
| April 26 th -29 th | Spring Trip (location TBA) |
| May 2 nd | Concert Choir Dress Rehearsal – 6-9pm |
| May 4 th | Spring Concert I (CB, PE, CC, O) – 7pm |
| May 7 th | Men's & Women's Choirs & Madrigals Dress Rehearsal – 2:30-5:30pm |
| May 8 th | Spring Concert II (SB, JB, MC, WC, Mads) – 7pm |
| May 11 th | End of the Year Awards Banquet – 6pm |

Chamber Choir (Madrigal Singers) Syllabus 2011

Please sign and return this portion of the syllabus to the director, confirming that you have read and understood the expectations and policies of the Reservoir High School Chamber Choir Class Syllabus and Grading Policy.

Student Name (print)

Date

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Other Needed Information:

Street Address

City

Zip Code

Home Phone Number

Parent Work Phone Number

Parent Cell Phone Number

Parent E-mail Address

Student E-mail Address